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Levi Reveals More Harassment by F.B.I.

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 23 — Attorney General Edward H. Levi said today that, in the period from 1960 to 1971, the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted five previously undisclosed counterintelligence programs against domestic political organizations, including one designed to turn organized crime elements against the American Communist party.

In addition to that effort, termed "Operation Hoodwink," Mr. Levi said that separate programs had been aimed at harassing and confusing members of unidentified Puerto Rican independence groups and three unidentified organizations with foreign connections.

In a letter sent today to Representative Peter W. Ro-

dino Jr., the New Jersey Democrat who heads the House Judiciary Committee, Mr. Levi said that the five programs, a part of the effort known collectively within the F.B.I. as "Cointelpro," had recently been uncovered in the course of an internal F.B.I. review.

A Justice Department study ordered by William B. Saxbe, Mr. Levi's predecessor and now American Ambassador to India,

reported that Cointelpro had consisted of only seven separate programs, including those aimed at the American Communist party, the Socialist Workers party, black militant groups, "white hate groups" and the New Left.

An F.B.I. spokesman, asked how the five newly disclosed programs had been overlooked at the time of Mr. Saxbe's public report on the departmental study last November, would say only, "We stand on the Attorney General's statement" of today.

But one F.B.I. official said, "I'm not sure there's anybody in the F.B.I. who can tell you how we missed these things."

The official said that as soon as one of the bureau's field offices reported to F.B.I. head-

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quarters here that its internal audit had disclosed the existence of some unpublished counterintelligence programs. "We notified the A.G. [Attorney General].

The F.B.I.'s report to Mr. Levi, a Justice Department official said, was received by the Attorney General on April 21, and the relevant documents were studied between that time and today's notification to Mr. Rodino.

In the letter, Mr. Levi told Mr. Rodino, before whose committee Justice Department officials had testified about the seven originally disclosed Co-intelpro efforts, that "the scope of these five additional programs was much narrower than that of the operations already disclosed."

"Operation Hoodwink," Mr. Levi wrote, included only four actions from October, 1966, to July, 1968, that were directed to an alleged organized crime elements in competition with the Communist party U.S.A.

All four actions, he said, revolved around letters and documents prepared by F.B.I. agents, in some cases falsely attributed to the Communist party and in others anonymous.

In one instance, a letter sent to an alleged organized crime figure contained a bogus article attacking labor practices at the man's business. The article was prepared by the F.B.I. to make it appear as though it had been written by party officials.

Second Letter Cited

A second letter, also written to appear as if it had come from officials of the Communist party, was sent to three alleged leaders of organized crime denouncing them for their alleged part in the bombing of the party's New York City headquarters.

The largest of the five programs, Mr. Levi said, was aimed from August, 1960, to April, 1971, at militant groups that sought independence for Puerto Rico.

It was on April 8, 1971, that the late J. Edgar Hoover, then the F.B.I. director, terminated all Co-intelpro operations then in force after documents detailing some of them were stolen from an F.B.I. office in Media, Pa.

Mr. Levi said that 37 separate actions had been authorized against the Puerto Rican groups, presumably by Mr. Hoover, who initiated the bureau's domestic counterintelligence operations in 1956 and supervised them closely.

These included the mailing of several different anonymous letters, leaflets and fliers, some of them apparently bogus, like one stating that such a group had mishandled its funds, and another "stating that one of the group's leaders and one of its members were having a love affair."

A copy of the latter document, Mr. Levi said, was also sent to "a local news medium."

Other materials were furnished to newspapers and television stations by the F.B.I., he said, including "embarrassing information about an independence group leader."

The three other programs, according to the letter, "were in the area of foreign intelligence and are classified 'secret.'" They included 12 actions, authorized from 1961 to the 1971 cutoff date, against three unidentified political organizations that were "foreign dominated" or had substantial ties to organizations in other countries.

One of the actions involved advising "local authorities . . . that supporters of a foreign-dominated group met frequently with prostitutes."

In another instance, a flier was sent to leaders of what was described as a "foreign nationality group" in the United States urging that the group not engage in violence.

Another program included the revocation of the visa of the wife of a member of a foreign Communist party as an

attempt "to discourage the Communist activities of her husband."

Mr. Levi told Representative Rodino that the F.B.I.'s internal review of its defunct counterintelligence operations was continuing and promised to keep him "informed of any further developments."

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